



2016 North Carolina Envirothon Oral Presentation Problem

Team Role

For this exercise, your team will role play a group of experts who have backgrounds in wildlife management, forestry, soils and land use, and aquatics. You have been asked by the Chief Administrator of the Green Ridge Wildlife Refuge to address a joint meeting of the refuge staff and local government officials who are concerned about the growing threat of invasive species to the refuge ecosystem and its long-term effects on tourism. Use your knowledge of the NC Envirothon resource materials to solve this problem.

You will be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to present your recommendations. Please note that points will be deducted for presentations that are less than 9 minutes in length.

Setting

The Green Ridge Wildlife Refuge covers 12,400 acres in 3 counties in the mountains. A wide variety of ecosystems exist within the refuge as the land stretches from rich river bottoms to high mountain peaks. The majority of the land is forested in stands of timber that range in age from 120 to as little as 2 years. Much of the refuge is actively managed to enhance biodiversity and to protect several native populations of endangered and threatened species.

Problem

The staff of the Green Ridge Wildlife Refuge has become increasingly concerned in recent years about the recent spread of invasive species into local towns near the refuge. If these invaders spread to the refuge, fragile ecosystems could be disrupted. In addition, local town and county officials are concerned that problems at the wildlife refuge could result in lower numbers of tourists coming to the area.

Your presentation should cover all of the following areas:

- The impacts of invasive species on forests, wildlife, and ecosystems with specific references to biodiversity.
- Outline the common pathways of introduction and spread of invasive species.
- Discuss methods of invasive species management and include the following:
 - The role and responsibilities of government, businesses, and citizens.
 - Methods of managing invasive species that are already established in the area.
 - Methods to prevent new invasive species from getting a foot hold in the area.